

DIRECTOR SANCHEZ Retires



Yvonne Sanchez

After a full term as Director of Neighborhoods, Yvonne Sanchez announced her retirement from the City on February 27th, effective April 3rd. Bernie Matsuno, who has been with the Department for many years, has been appointed Acting Director by Mayor Greg Nickels.

Under Yvonne's leadership, carrying out the Mayor's Race Relations and Social Justice

Initiative, the Department of Neighborhoods increased its outreach to people from all walks of life, including immigrant and communities of color.

"I am very proud of the accomplishments of the people who work in this department and of the countless volunteers living in Seattle's many unique neighborhoods. Over the past four years we have an appropriately diverse department, which in partnership with communities, is responsive to the growing needs of this city's increasingly diverse population. Because of this, I leave here on an optimistic note."

Mayor Nickels was quick to add his praises. "Yvonne Sanchez has been a dedicated public servant for many years," said Mayor Greg Nickels. "Communities throughout the city have benefited under her leadership at the Department of Neighborhoods for the last four years.


Her support for the advancement of immigrant and refugee communities in our city has been tremendous. Under her leadership, the department created a matching fund for projects that advance the understanding of race and social justice issues in our neighborhoods. I wish her all the best and thank her for her remarkable efforts."

Sanchez took the Department of Neighborhoods to the next step in its evolution, expanding the Matching Fund, leading effort create a strategic plan, expanding its message and presence in the community, and creating an overall sense of direction. These are great accomplishments for any department director, and ones that the Neighborhoods will carry with it for years to come.

Prior to working for the City, Sanchez worked for more than 16 years as a top administrator in state and local government. When she worked for the State Department of Social and Health Services in Olympia she was the highest placed Latina in State Government. The same was true, being the highest placed Latina, when she worked at King County for the Department of Public Works.

Her volunteer activism includes serving on community non-profit board such as Center for Career Alternatives and CAMP (Central Area Motivation Program.) Currently she serves as Chair of Seattle MESA, and as a board member of the Washington State ACLU and United Way of King County Community Council. She also serves on the Education Committee of Islandwood, an environmental learning center located on Bainbridge Island, and is incoming Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Seattle Community College District.

What will she do next? "After meeting my grand-child who will be born in April in Hawaii, I want to get a dog and go on a road trip across the country. There are so many wonderful friends and family I want to see, and places to go-it'll be a real adventure." Several of her friends include other Latinas that have played leadership roles in their own communities. All of them met this past year through National Hispana Leadership Institute, a program through the Kennedy School of Government that only selects 20 participants throughout the United States.

After that, there will be plenty of time for all the fixing left on her condominium that was damaged by fire last year. "I get a real sense of accomplishment in doing it yourself-the taping, primer, and painting. Standing back and looking at what you have accomplished is always so satisfying." 

Building of the Month

Heather McAuliffe, Historic Preservation Program
March 2006

From Industrial to Retail: A Paint Shop Becomes A Wine Bar

Uses are changing rapidly in the Ballard Avenue Landmark District as the area gains popularity and the historic district thrives. The petite brick industrial building housing Best Paints at 5205 Ballard Ave NW sold last year to the owner of Portalis Wine Shop + Wine Bar, Julie Howe, and two other partners. Portalis opened at 5310 Ballard Ave NW in 2003. The business relocated to 5205 Ballard Ave NW recently after the building was extensively renovated.

Julie Howe applied to the Ballard Avenue Landmark District Board in 2005 for approval to make changes to the building's façade to accommodate the new use, including changes to the roll-up door, changes to the

replace it with a storefront, but the Board expressed a concern that the change would alter the historic character of the building.

In response to the Board's questions about the garage door's history, Julie Howe researched the building and found out that the existing roll-up door was not original but that the building had always had a large garage door in that location, based on historic photos. After further discussions with the Board, she proposed a new folding garage door with glass panels instead of a new storefront. The new door would open to allow air circulation in the summertime, and provide transparency into the space when closed.



storefront entry to make it ADA compliant, and new exterior colors and signage. She wanted to remove the existing wood roll-up door and find a solution that would make the space more open and inviting for their wine bar customers. Initially she proposed to remove the door and



The Board determined that the new door would not significantly change the historic character of the building, and approved the proposal. In addition to the new door, the building has now been painted olive green with dark green trim and a red entry door. It has been given a new life and will undoubtedly attract many wine fans this summer, since the business has an established clientele. 🌐

2005 Race and Social Justice Awards

Organization and Project Names

Arts and Culture Projects

- 1) Rainier Vista Cambodian New Year Celebration, Rainier Vista Cambodian Youth Program
- 2) Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, Delridge Community Collaboration
- 3) Lope de Vega, Young Shakespeare Workshop
- 4) Critical Voices of Rainier "CRIVO, International Capoeira Angola Foundation
- 5) Southeast Asia/Southeast Seattle: To be Asian and American in the Rainier Valley, Rainier Valley Youth Theatre
- 6) The African Conexion - Two Readings - One World, The African Conexion Coalition
- 7) Jackson Streets: Past, Presents, and Futures, Wing Luke Elementary PTSA

Family and School Partnership Projects

- 8) Family Literacy Dinners and Girls Softball, Salvation Army Community Center
- 9) The New School @ South Shore Cultural Enrichment, Parent Alliance Group at the New School
- 10) ESL Family and School Involvement, John Stanford International School PTSA
- 11) Talk Story with Pacific Islander and Asian Sisters, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - Seattle Chapter
- 12) Rainier Valley Family Friends & Neighbors Caregivers Support Network, Refugee Women's Alliance
- 13) Campana Quetzal Parental Education and Leadership Training, Campana Quetzal
- 14) The Garden Connection, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice
- 15) Race and Social Justice Programs/Children's Summer University, Urban League of Metro Seattle
- 16) Raising Bias-Free Kids King St., Cooperative Preschool

Youth Projects

- 17) Capitol Hill Homeless Youth Employment Project Tea Cart, Street Outreach Services
- 18) West side Symphonette Outreach and Outreach Growth, West side Symphonette
- 19) Central Area Youth of Color Define Their Voice, Momentum
- 20) Community Building Through Global Understanding – Worlds Apart/The Arts Together, Washington Middle School

Media Projects

- 21) South Park es mi Casa, Amigos de South Park
- 22) Community Voices/Voces Comunitarias, South Park Violence Prevention Collaborative

Leadership and Advocacy Projects

- 23) Multicultural Family Council Development, North Seattle Family Center/Children's Home Society
- 24) Driven in Debt and Poverty Community Mapping, Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing (LELO)
- 25) The Intergenerational Multi-cultural Leadership, Central House
- 26) Focus Groups for Somalis to Fight Against Discrimination, Racism, Oppression and Negligence, Somali Community Services
- 27) International District Intergenerational Leadership Program, International District Housing Alliance
- 28) Allyship and Coalition Building, Seattle LGBT Community Center
- 29) Community Immigration Empowerment, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- 30) From Hate to Hope, From Hate to Hope Network
- 31) Conference for Latino Immigrant Women in Seattle, Casa Latina
- 32) Which Way Seattle 2006, Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas

HAPPENINGS

BALLARD

your neighborhood

CAR CAMPERS IN BALLARD'S INDUSTRIAL AREA

In response to growing concern from the Ballard community, the Ballard District Coordinator is convening a group of business and property owners who are alarmed over the issue of persons who live on the street in their vehicles. Following December 16 heroin overdose deaths of two residents of a van parked in the Ballard industrial area, this issue has gotten lots of local attention, especially from businesses and residents near the industrial area immediately north of the Ballard Bridge. Jordon Royer, Sgt. Dianne Newsom (North Precinct), Ed McKenna (Law), Mike Estey (SDOT), and SPD Parking Enforcement have been invited to attend. It is hoped we can get a better idea of the extent of this practice and take stock of specific issues; e.g. criminal activity, sanitation, parking, etc. There may or may not be action steps agreed upon at this initial encounter. Public policy and legal constraints in addressing this issue are unclear to the citizens as well as most City agencies.

METRO TRANSIT LAUNCHES "BALLARD ON THE MOVE"

Metro Transit staff and consultants announced their selection of central Ballard as the next target for their "Metro on the Move" initiative. This six-month focus of Metro marketing services has been targeted at Crossroads, Lake Forest Park, Columbia City, Madison/Miller, and now Ballard. The Ballard District Coordinator will convene a sounding board of representatives from Central Ballard area organizations to provide guidance for this program. The program is expected to begin by May 2006.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

ROVING RESIDENCES

Businesses in the vicinity of 14th Ave S and S Main St report an increase in people living in cars and periodically moving the vehicles when the tires are marked. Wisteria Manor and the Buddhist Church report there has been an increase in litter and observations of people that reside in the cars urinating in the park across from the Buddhist Church. East Precinct's Community Police Team (CPT) is conducting a knock and talk with people who live in the cars. The 12th Avenue businesses have expressed much appreciation for SPD's quick response.

Happenings, continued on following page...

NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION DAY Student Art Contest Awards!

Families and friends joined the Student Art Contest winners on Neighbor Appreciation Day, Saturday, February 11th. There at Ingraham High, guests were able to view all of the winning art, enjoy refreshments, and listen to the sounds of Ingraham High's very own Tony Bissiri Jazz Trio. Then Mayor Nickels and new Councilmember Sally Clark gave out awards and t-shirts to the students.



Joining Mayor Nickels are City Councilmembers Sally Clark, David Della, and Richard Conlin, along with the 2006 Neighbor Appreciation Day Student Art Contest winners.

This year marked the 12th annual Neighbor Appreciation Day. The City encourages Seattle residents to celebrate Neighbor Appreciation Day by saying "thank you!" to those who have made their neighborhood a nicer, safer, place to live and play.

Michelle Pham, a fifth grader at Dunlap Elementary School in southeast Seattle, was winner of the student art contest for

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

the 2006 Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting card celebrating "neighborliness." There were a number of runners-up this year, as there were a huge number of entries that wonderfully depicted neighbors helping neighbors. To view all of these inspired pieces, you can go online to:

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/appday/>



Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting cards are available free to organizations and individuals throughout Seattle. The card is suitable for use throughout the year. If you would like to send cards to citizens in recognition of their special contributions to their neighborhoods, please contact Peter McGraw at 615-0950 or peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov and let him know how many you need. They are also available at all Neighborhood Service Centers and public libraries throughout Seattle. 🌐

TWO NEW BUSINESSES

The newest Quiznos will be opening on February 2, 2006 in the Welch Plaza located on the Southwest corner of 23rd Ave S and S Jackson St.

The All Purpose Pizza establishment has opened at 2901 S Jackson St, SE corner of 29th Ave S and S Jackson St.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Area Farmers Market plans to start up in May 2006 in the vicinity of 20th Ave. The Market has received support from Mount Zion Church. The market will operate Friday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DELDRIDGE

SSCC/UW CREATING PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES

Community leaders from South Park, White Center, and Delridge were invited to a breakfast meeting at South Seattle Community College (SSCC) to form the Advisory Committee for the SSCC-UW (University of Washington) Community Partnership. The two colleges have joined together to promote academic programs and identify mutually beneficial ways to support local community initiatives and human service providers with faculty and students. Examples of SSCC resources available to the community include Community History, Landscaping, ESL, ABE, and WorkSource Center. The University of Washington offers a variety of resources from the Evans School of Public Affairs, School of Nursing, School of Social Work, Urban Planning and School of Business. Jim Diers, University of Washington Educational Partnership and Learning Technologies, is the community liaison coordinating this effort. The community leaders will meet again this spring to learn how the partnership can best support the communities' priorities.

Happenings, continued on following page...

BELLTOWN STREETScape STUDY

The Belltown Landuse and Housing Sub-Committee has received a Small and Simple award from the Department of Neighborhoods to undertake a Streetscape Study of 3rd and 4th Avenues. The study has been completed and a report will be coming out in February. The study included the examination of: traffic safety improvements, street trees and tree pits, street lights, street furniture, full block sidewalk development, and Greenstreets.

STATE OF DOWNTOWN 2006

The State of Downtown 2006 was held on January 24 from 7-9am at the Paramount Hotel. The Office of Economic Development, the Downtown Seattle Association, and the Metropolitan Improvement District sponsored the event. Over 200 stakeholders in the downtown area attended the annual breakfast event to hear statistics and commentary from key leaders on the state of Seattle's downtown over the last year. Attendees learned that downtown Seattle is the city's fastest growing neighborhood. With 54,572 estimated residents in 2005, the Center City population has grown by an average of 65.3% in the last fifteen years, compared with about a 12% growth rate city-wide. Downtown's population growth between 1990 and 2000 is the largest increase among a national sample of 44 major metropolitan markets.

STAY OUT OF DRUG AREAS (SODA)

King County Drug Court is currently issuing Stay Out of Drug Area Orders (SODA) as conditions of release for defendants who commit their drug crimes in the City of Seattle. Seattle Municipal Court is gearing up to begin issuing SODA orders as conditions of sentence on drug related cases processed through Municipal Court. Each precinct has a set number of SODA zones that were determined after analysis of the areas in the City that have the highest level of drug trafficking. SODA orders prevent defendants from returning to the zone where they committed their offense. The two downtown zones extend from lower Queen Anne to Marion St., and then from Marion St. to Spokane St.

Happenings, continued on following page...

Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant Program

A new \$300,000 grant program to support projects that benefit aquatic habitat is available to individuals, non-profit community groups, and businesses. Grants, funded by Seattle Public Utilities, begin at \$2,000. To be eligible, projects must be located within the City of Seattle on private or public property in or along creeks, or marine and lake shorelines that have been impacted by the City of Seattle's drainage system. The grant program is part of Mayor Nickel's Restore Our Waters initiative, a comprehensive plan to restore, protect and enhance the water bodies of Seattle. Applicants must match the grant request at least 100 percent with community, private, or non-city grant resources. Application materials will be available in April. For more details, visit the Web site at: www.seattle.gov/util/aquaticgrant Or contact Christina Faine, Aquatic Habitat Grant Coordinator, at christina.faine@seattle.gov or 206-386-4195 or Kathy Minsch, Program Manager, at 206-615-1441 or kathy.minsch@seattle.gov

The Columbia City Gallery

announces its

1st Annual Juried Exhibition

The exhibition titled "Plugged In and Caffeinated" will present artwork that examines the perception of time as a "plugged in and caffeinated" culture. The exhibit will focus on the artist's view of time; how industry, technology, and automation influences the need for more time, the phenomenon of time "flying by", time in slow motion, or our cultures attempt to alter the reality of time.

This show will run May 10 - July 9, 2006, with a reception opening on Saturday, May 13. The juried show is open to all artists 21 and older living in Western Washington. Entry fee is \$30. A maximum of three slides may be submitted. Jurors for the exhibition are Barbara Shaiman from Seattle Art Museum's Rental Sales Gallery; Kamla Kakaria, local printmaker and instructor at Pratt Fine Art Center; and Larry Calkins, local artist and instructor at Pratt Fine Art Center.

The Columbia City Gallery is located in the heart of the Historic Landmark District of Columbia City. The Gallery is a cooperative of local artists and is an arts program of South East Effective Development (SEED). Since its opening in 1999, it has been a lively center of community involvement.

Submissions must be received by Friday, March 24, 2006 by 8 pm. More information regarding detailed entry information and application is available online at www.columbiacitygallery.com. If you have any questions, please call 206-854-1727. 🌐

HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENTS

Two main events took place in downtown Seattle on Monday January 16 in observance of the MLK holiday. The traditional march from Garfield to the Federal Building and the parade from Westlake to Seattle Center (a new event this year) both went fine and no major problems were reported by the Seattle Police Department.

MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES TASK FORCE

One open house and two public meetings were held during the month of January regarding the task force's recommendations after a year of meetings. Recommendations include: park programming, capacity building, fundraising, creating a separate downtown parks management unit, a park ranger program, and more. The next meeting of the Downtown Parks Task Force is on March 3, at which time they will consider public input and finalize the report.

EAST

MAYOR NICKELS TOURS THE BROADWAY/OLIVE WAY NEIGHBORHOODS

Mayor Nickels, along with leaders of the LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transsexual) community and neighborhood residents, toured the Broadway/Olive Way neighborhoods. The community would like to maintain the spirit of tolerance and human rights advocacy that has made this neighborhood known throughout the region, as well as contribute to the economic rehabilitation of the neighborhoods' business districts.

Organizations represented at the tour included: Broadway Business Improvement Association, Greater Seattle Business Association, Friends of Cal Anderson Park, Groundswell of Broadway, Entre Hermanos Community Center, LGBT Community Center and POWHat, (Pine/Olive Way/Harvard at triangle).

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

your neighborhood

YESLER TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD TO HOST THE EAST DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The East District Neighborhood Council responded to the request of holding its bimonthly meetings throughout the neighborhoods in the East Sector. The first neighborhood chosen to host the Council's meeting was Yesler Terrace, which will be working with Seattle Housing Authority in its plans to redevelop Yesler Terrace in the future.

The East District Neighborhood Council hopes to create dialogue between residents, government and institutions to assist the neighbors of Yesler Terrace in their deliberations and planning for their future.

THE BROADWAY BIA, (BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION), UPDATE

Michael Well, owner of the Bailey/Coy Bookstore at 414 Broadway Avenue East, is the new president of the Broadway BIA. (bcbook@aol.com)

The Broadway BIA has been actively working with the City's initiatives such as the established Broadway zoning changes as well as the rehabilitation of the Broadway business district.

GREATER DUWAMISH

BEACON TOWERS

A meeting with Seattle Housing Authority residents from Beacon Tower and a Seattle Housing Authority representative started a dialogue to get them more involved in the Beacon Hill community. With the possibility of applying for a Small Sparks award, Beacon Tower residents are interested in doing more outreach to the community. There is a scheduled clean-up among several Adopt-a-Street groups on Beacon Hill in March, and Beacon Tower residents are considering doing more outreach to get the community involved in theirs.

Happenings, continued on following page...

The 2005 Race and Social Justice Project Fund

By Garry Owens

Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager

On January 12, 2005 the Rainier Beach High School Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center was buzzing with excitement. The 3rd Annual Mayor's Race and Social Justice Project Fund Award Celebration was honoring 32 successful applicants and their community supporters.

The Mayor, Department Director Yvonne Sanchez, Community Building Division Director Bernie Matsuno and the staff led a wonderful evening of recognition, accomplishment and relationship building. The event re-stated the community's passion and interest that Seattle would be a racially, culturally, and socially just place for all the residents.

The Rainier Beach High School Jazz and Funk Band played finger-popping songs on instruments provided by the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Several members of the audience were the recipients of the two previous award cycles of the RSJ Fund who came to honor their fellow awardees and offer friendly advice.

This year the awardees were arranged in larger groups that described a general sense of their project's focus. As Yvonne Sanchez read the awarded group's name and project description -the Mayor graciously gave each awarded group a signed certificate (affectionately called a "big check") and took a picture with each group on stage. The 2005 process conducted a special series of eight technical assistance workshops to support prospective applicants with their project application.

Continued on next page.

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

The 3rd Annual event begins the end of the pilot project started in 2003. The results to-date of the three year pilot is remarkable. 220 groups applied and 102 received an award. \$1,091,074 of City funds was allocated to support the proposed projects. The projects through 2005 promised \$1,502,813 of match resources to support the project.

Finally, the success of the pilot project has resulted in two positive changes in the Small and Simple Projects Fund. Race and Social Justice is now a project type in the Neighborhood Matching Fund and the match ratio has changed from 1:1 to 1:1/2 (except for physical projects – which remain 1:1). This means that community groups only have to provide \$.50 worth of match to every \$1.00 they request from the City. 🌐

PANDILLIAS EN LA VIDA DE NUESTRO COMUNIDAD

Around 30 people participated in a South Park event called “Gangs in the Life of our Community”. The forum, organized by Grupo COMUNIDADES and St. James ESL program, discussed strategies in addressing Latino gangs in South Park. Consejo, a local Latino human service organization, presented an overview as to why teens join gangs and also spoke to prevention, intervention, and recovery programs available to the youths. The featured speaker was Leno Rose-Avila who has over 30 years working with at-risk youth, mainly Latinos, in Central and North America. Requests to hold future events similar to this for Latino parents were also suggested and will be explored. The event was funded by a Small Sparks award from the Department of Neighborhoods.

BEACON ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORS

On Martin Luther King Day, approximately 250 EarthCorps volunteers joined the Beacon Alliance of Neighbors (BAN) to participate in an ivy removal and general cleanup of the south slope of Dr. Jose Rizal Park. The event was co-hosted by EarthCorps, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the Beacon Alliance of Neighbors. After the clean-up, EarthCorps did a survey of the work, and estimated that 330 circles were cleared around threatened trees and other species, and approximately 10,000 square feet of ivy was pulled.

MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

QUEEN ANNE TO QFC: “NO STRIP MALL!”

A group of Queen Anne residents have shifted into high gear in their opposition to plans for replacing the popular Metropolitan Market grocery store. Earlier this month, 250 people attended the Queen Anne Community Council, and later that week, about one hundred residents met to form Queen Anne Neighbors for Responsible Growth. Three hundred attended a meeting of the Land Use Review Committee (LURC) of the Community Council, at which developers presented initial plans and drawings for the proposed project. The groups are opposed to a strip mall on Queen Anne Ave. The owner expressed some willingness to alter the proposed project based on community input, but it remains unclear how much she is willing to change.

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

MAGNOLIA PARK NAMED

The new park that will be constructed adjacent to the old Magnolia Elementary School has been named Ella Bailey Park. Bailey was a teacher who sold the land to the school district to ensure there would be a place next to the school for children to play. The \$1.4 million project will include a grass field for passive recreation and youth sports, a play area, and a picnic area.

GRAND PLAN FOR QUEEN ANNE AVENUE UNVEILED

The neighborhood group, Picture Perfect Queen Anne, held its third and final public meeting, unveiling its master plan for a renovated Queen Anne Avenue at the top of the hill. The work was funded by a Neighborhood Matching Fund award. The plan envisions improved pedestrian crossings, new sidewalk paving, street furniture, pedestrian lighting, and public art. One hundred fifty people attended the meeting. The organization will now prioritize the improvements and begin to seek funding from the City and private sources.

NORTH

ROTARY CLUB BUILDS CLINIC AT NORTH HELPLINE

The Rotary Club is building a medical clinic at the North Helpline building in Lake City. Space for the clinic comes from space freed up by the move of the Lake City Neighborhood Service Center to the new library building in Lake City. The clinic will open in February 2006 and provide free care to people who have no medical insurance and cannot afford to see a doctor. For more information, contact North Helpline director Rita Anderson, 367-3477.

NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTINUES ITS OUTREACH WORK

The North District Council has invited Pete Spalding, new chair of the City Neighborhood Council, and chair of the Delridge District Council, to talk at its February 1 meeting about the Delridge Council's outreach work. The Neighborhood District Coordinator is working with a subgroup of the North District Council on several outreach avenues, including working with staff from the Seattle Public Schools and the North Seattle Family Center to reach more underrepresented residents.

Happenings, continued on following page...

Communities Act to Support Climate Protection

By Anne Takekawa
Neighborhood Matching Fund Manager

In 2005, Mayor Nickels launched his climate protection initiative, reaching out to cities across the country and making a commitment for Seattle to reduce its contributions to global warming. Seattle is making a difference locally on this critical issue. Many groups have already started to use the Neighborhood Matching Fund to implement community projects that support climate protection.

Last fall, 30 neighborhood groups planted over 500 street trees on planting strips adjacent to their homes. Pledging to water the young trees for the next three summers, volunteers ensure that trees will mature to beautify and cool their communities while at the same time absorbing carbon dioxide and producing cleaner air.


The Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area launched a study this spring to determine the practicality of processing cooking oil discarded by area restaurants into biodiesel fuel. Project coordinator Tim Wang commented, "We're very excited about this opportunity. If the study indicates economic feasibility and support from the business community we'd like to move on to an implementation phase. Everyone would win: the cooking oil stays out of the waste stream, businesses save on disposal costs, and biodiesel is more environmentally friendly than petroleum products."

Nate Moxley coordinated Garden Connection, a 2005 project of Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ). He observed that the young gardeners at the Central Area's Hawkins P-Patch learned a lot from African American sen-

Continued on next page.

iors for whom the gardening tradition was once essential to survival. Nate went on to note that, "It is so important to re-introduce pesticide-free and sustainable gardening to low-income families to reduce their exposure to harmful toxins." Although completed, CCEJ is looking to partner with another group in 2006 to sustain the achievements of this project.

These examples and other ideas such as a community biodiesel and climate protection fair or a neighborhood mapping project to reduce the use of cars by encouraging shopping at local businesses are only a few of the ways your neighborhood can act to support climate protection in Seattle. For more information, call [206-684-0464](tel:206-684-0464) and ask to speak with a Neighborhood Matching Fund project manager. 🌐



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Department of Neighborhoods
Doug Nichols, Mayor

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HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

LAKE CITY WAY MULTI-MODAL CONSTRUCTION MOPS UP

The Lake City Way Multi-Modal Construction project is close to winding up. Crews have been busy putting up permanent street signs. Recent sun breaks allowed crews to prepare for the installation of an asphalt sidewalk on sections of the west side of Lake City Way NE, south of NE Northgate Way; the installation work will continue into next week, weather permitting. Railing work at the crossing of Thornton Creek is also anticipated later this week. Additional work activities in early February include curb work north of NE 125th St, irrigation system work, and miscellaneous clean-up work.

NORTHEAST

ROOTS LOSS IS THE ALLIANCE'S GAIN

Laura Pritchard has been the shelter director for the Young Adult Shelter during this past, critical year. This was the first time that shelter was offered seven nights a week, 365 nights a year in the same church. Previously, the shelter had operated in five different churches in the University District. Consolidating shelter made it easier for young people in need - they no longer had to figure out which church to go to depending on what night it was. The commitment of University Temple United Methodist Church has been remarkable. The staff have worked above and beyond a reasonable work load, so it was not a big surprise when Laura Pritchard, Director Extraordinaire, announced that she had applied for and had been offered the job of Coordinator with the University District Youth Alliance. The Alliance is a newly emerging collaborative of service providers in the U District who came together with the help of a grant from the Paul Allen Foundation

4CULTURE SPEAKS TO ROOSEVELT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Barb Luecke, project coordinator from the County's Public Art Program, spoke to a packed room at the January 24 meeting of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association. She described the work to date on this corridor project and explained what the timeline looks like for the next few months. The hope is to have an artist on board by summer of this year to begin the NE 65th Street project.

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

For more information about the NE 65th Street Project, contact Barbara Luecke, 4Culture Project Coordinator at barbaraluecke@4Culture.org or 206-296-4137.

"ZONING 101" CLASS GETS HIGH MARKS

Tom Hauger, from the Department of Planning and Development, conducted a zoning class for interested members of the Roosevelt neighborhood on January 26. The group included current leadership for this community council; former members of "Tomorrow's Roosevelt", the neighborhood planning group; and property owners and stakeholders. The session was lively, very informative and relevant. The group working specifically on zoning issues meets on the second Thursday of every month and reports to the full membership meetings monthly.

NORTHWEST

ALBERTSON'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE

Green Lake area residents were startled to learn of the sudden closure of the local Albertson's Grocery Store. Although some residents were not surprised to learn that the property will probably be redeveloped as residential use, many local neighbors will no longer have a grocery store that is accessible to them, particularly older and less mobile residents. The soon-to-be-redeveloped Vitamilk property is slated to include a mid-sized grocery store, but that is a couple of years away from completion. There are some other grocery stores in the vicinity—QFC in Roosevelt and Wallingford, PCC on Aurora, Whole Foods in Roosevelt, but none are within convenient walking distance. Some Green Lake residents feel that the need to drive to get their groceries runs counter to the concept of living in an urban village.

CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND BENCH PROJECT

The Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Meeting and Recognition Reception Saturday evening January 28. Among the honorees were the members of the Greenwood Arts Council, who received the Chamber's Community Service Award for the completion of the Beautiful Greenwood Bench Project, which was funded in part with a Neighborhood Matching Fund award.

Happenings, continued on following page...

Neighborhoods' Focus on White Center

Mayor's Tour of White Center Draws Large Turnout

The turnout for the Mayor's Tour of the White Center/South Delridge Business District was a huge success and indicated strong support for the annexation of unincorporated White Center in the City of Seattle. Over 30 people greeted Mayor Nickels at the Salvadoreano Bakery where he congratulated Ana Castro and her family on their 10th year anniversary of being in business.

It was also an opportunity for the community, which included several City Council members from the City of Burien, to ask questions and hear directly from the Mayor the reasons he wants White Center to be an official neighborhood of the City of Seattle. This, however, was not received very well by a handful of protesters who demonstrated outside the bakery with signs and bullhorns opposing the annexation of White Center. They favor becoming part of the City of Burien. Other public officials accompanying the Mayor during the tour were Councilmembers David Della and Tom Rasmussen, King County Councilman Dow Constantine, and Chief of Police Gil Kerlikowske.

The tour ended with a large reception at the Cambodian Cultural and Killing Fields Museum attended by about 50 people.

White Center Developments Featured in District Council Update

This month's meeting featured a roundtable discussion and update on current developments happening in White Center. The District Council invited representatives from the South Delridge/White Center

Continued on next page.

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

Weed and Seed Program, White Center Community Development Association, White Center Making Connections Initiative/Trusted Advocates, and Mayor's Office staff assigned to the annexation issue of unincorporated North Highline.

Kathy Kaminski and Barb Biondo of Weed and Seed mentioned there has been a significant reduction in violent crimes, drugs and prostitution in the White Center area, but unfortunately some of the street crimes and vandalism has spread to other neighborhoods in Delridge. The District Council wanted to know if Making Connections and the Trusted Advocate Program could be expanded into Delridge to get ethnic minority residents and groups involved in neighborhood activities. Eva Wysocki, from the White Center CDA, said the focus of her organization in the future would be to develop affordable housing, promote economic development, and build more resident leadership.

Julien Loh, from the Mayor's Office, provided an overview of the benefits unincorporated North Highline would receive if annexed into the City of Seattle, such as access to the Neighborhood Matching Fund and programs offered by the Office of Housing, Economic Development and Department of Human Services. 🌐

FRIENDS OF NORTHACRES PARK REJUVENATED BY CLEAN SEATTLE EVENT

Volunteers turned out Saturday morning January 21 on a rainy and soggy day to help with removal of invasive blackberry and ivy plants at Northacres Park. Having the Mayor and the Clean and Green Team focus on the park helped to reinvigorate the Friends group with about a dozen new members signing up to participate in future work parties at the park. The Haller Lake neighbors contacted the Greenwood NSC to convey their appreciation to the Mayor for spotlighting the Haller Lake neighborhood with the Clean and Green project and also for having the blackberry bushes cleared out of the Haller Lake Street End Park at N 125th & N Densmore, which also took place the day of the event.

SOUTHEAST

RAINIER BEACH HOLDS ITS THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACTION MEETING

The Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (RBCEC) held its Third Annual Community Action Meeting at the Rainier Beach Community Center on Thursday evening, January 26, 2006. The event celebrated community improvement efforts of residents and community groups, provided an update on critical community initiatives, and solicited suggestions for- and participation in - projects that make for a safer, revitalized neighborhood. This year there were over 200 community members in attendance, at least a third were children. The event was as diverse as the community of Rainier Beach. Local community groups shared how residents can initiate or become involved in neighborhood revitalization efforts. Residents had an opportunity to comment on topics such as youth and family development, education and workforce training, economic development, public safety and transportation, and the environment.

The funding coming to the Rainier Beach area as a result of Sound Transit's future presence, as well as other key initiatives, will improve the economic viability of Rainier Beach. But, the challenge is to ensure community input throughout and that planned improvements do not cause the community to be displaced.

Happenings, continued on following page...

HAPPENINGS

in your neighborhood

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL EXPANDS TO OVER 20 FORMAL ORGANIZATIONS

The SE District Council (SEDC) hosted a community update event on the SE Community Development Action Agenda on Saturday at its last meeting on January 25. 40 people from the community were in attendance. The SE District Council approved a restructuring process in July to operate as the community convenor for follow-up on the SE Action Agenda. The District Council has divided its priorities based on the five areas of the SE Action Agenda: Business and Job Creation; Physical Development; Public Safety; and Arts, Culture and Public Space.

This new structure has helped to revitalize and energize the District Council, which in one year went from three formal members to over 20. The District Council, made up of a collection of community organizations based in SE Seattle, is providing the forum for regular community check-ins on the progress of the Action Agenda. This summer the District Council will also host a community-wide event to discuss revitalization efforts in the Rainier Valley and the community's concerns over gentrification.

SOUTHWEST

MONORAIL PROPERTIES: HANDLE WITH CARE

At the January 4 Southwest District Council meeting, members voted to send a letter to the Seattle Monorail Project (SMP) requesting that a public hearing be held to explore ways to ensure that the best interests of the public are considered when Monorail properties are sold. Of particular interest to the Southwest District Council and the West Seattle Junction Association, is the former Petco parking lot. Both would like to see the lot re-acquired and retained for much needed merchant parking and not sold for development. The letter was sent on January 9 to Jonathan Buchter, Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel to the SMP.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Arts West has named Alan Harrison as its new executive director. Harrison most recently served as the managing director for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and as director of communications for the Seattle Repertory Theater. Harrison replaces Michael Harris who left in October 2005.

Happenings, continued on following page...

DON Takes a Closer Look at Seattle's Local Food System

By Laura Raymond
P-Patch Community Garden Coordinator

Food touches everything: our pocket-books, traditions, health and our waste streams. It shapes land use and our physical environment. It provides employment and enjoyment and it is often the first thing that's cut when money is tight. Because programs that address hunger, nutrition, agriculture and the food sector are spread across many organizations, agencies and jurisdictions, many potential solutions and system enhancement opportunities simply fall through the cracks.

The costs and impacts of our food system are huge: 22-25% of our individual and community ecological footprints and 12-15% of all expenditures for Seattle area consumers. How can we reduce the ecological impacts of feeding our families while improving nutrition, fairness and security? What if our food system maximized community involvement and social justice while contributing to a healthy environment? What if farming, food processing, and distribution flourished as part of our local economy?

The Department of Neighborhoods is joining with staff from other City departments to consider some of these questions and identify ways that the City of Seattle might help enhance our local food system to become more just and sustainable. The group includes staff from various departments including, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, Seattle Public Utilities, Human Services Division, Parks and Recreation Department, and Office of Economic Development. It is

Continued on next page.

teaming up with research fellows at the University of Washington to investigate some strengths and vulnerabilities of our local food system and to identify real opportunities for positive change.

Already community members across Seattle are contributing to a more equitable local food system in a variety of ways. P-Patch community gardeners grow organic food for their own households right inside the city. As urban food producers, they also play an important role in the emergency food system by growing and donating tons of produce each year to food banks.

A new gleaning project brings neighborhood volunteers together to harvest fruit off neighborhood trees to donate to a homeless shelter.

A new research project aims to quantify the "multiplier effect" that a local food system has on the money that stays in our local economy.

Yet other individuals and organizations are working to establish a Food Policy Council that would bring together participants in the food system, from farmers and retailers, to nutritionists and eaters. With a wide range of expertise and perspectives represented the council would be well suited to leverage resources and identify creative solutions by encouraging partnerships between public and private groups.

With so many neighbors and community members already taking action locally, Seattle is ready to take a closer look at our local food system and take advantage of the opportunities we find to enhance it. 🌍

Amy Lee Derenthal, capital campaign director for the Senior Center of West Seattle's expansion and renovation project for the past two years has left her post to become the director of development at the nearby Kenney House.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is searching for a new executive director to replace Tom Monahan who left for personal reasons. Monahan's last day was December 31, 2005.

JUNCTION TILES TO BE REMOVED

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has notified the West Seattle Junction Association that decorative tiles installed at the ramps of the mid-block crossing on California Avenue, between SW Edmunds and SW Alaska streets must be removed and replaced with an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-approved surface. The new surface will be lined with small yellow tactile domes that will aid the sight impaired and will bring the ramp into compliance with new SDOT guidelines. The installation of the new ramp surface will be scheduled to coincide with the planned repavement of California Avenue which is scheduled for late summer. As mitigation, SDOT has offered to provide funding for replacement tiles.

WEST SEATTLE FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES TO "GROW"

Since opening in 1999, the West Seattle Farmers Market has continued to grow (no pun intended) and recently launched its first winter season on January 8. Trailing only the University Farmers Market in total sales statewide, the West Seattle Farmers Market has become a West Seattle institution and its popularity has increased the bottom line for many West Seattle Junction merchants. The winter season will run through February. The Market will reopen for its eighth season in May.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RANKS HIGH ON LIST OF PRIORITIES

Seattle Department of Emergency Management Director Barb Graff was the featured speaker at the January meetings of the Fairmount Community Association (FCA) and Alki Community Council. Because of West Seattle's relative isolation, its dependency on the Alaskan Way Viaduct and its vulnerability to an earthquake, emergency preparedness has become a priority for FCA, Alki and other organizations in West Seattle. Graff spoke on the City's emergency preparedness plan and urged citizens to develop individual emergency preparedness plans and to organize on a block-by-block basis. 🌍

Get Involved!

As of December 2005, the following boards and commissions have openings:

- Fire Code Advisory Board
- Seattle Center Advisory Commission
- Seattle Design Review Board (Deadline is December 16, 2005)
- Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

Through a variety of boards and commissions, established by the City of Seattle, citizens can provide input on the policies that shape their government and their city. There are currently more than 50 boards and commissions that advise the Mayor and City Council on a vast array of issues. Over 450 of the people who serve are directly appointed by Mayor Nickels.

Board members and commissioners generally receive no financial compensation, but the payoff is great. Members meet other residents with similar interests, they learn about the City, and they help shape the future of Seattle! Being on a board or commission does require a significant personal commitment, however, so applicants should consider their ability to commit their time and personal energy before applying.

As board and commission meetings are open to the public, potential applicants are encouraged to sit in on monthly meetings. Meeting dates, times and locations vary, and are available on individual websites.

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, please submit a letter of interest and resume to Claudia Arana, Boards & Commissions Administrator for Mayor Nickels. Claudia can be reached by phone at [206-615-0958](tel:206-615-0958), or by email at Claudia.Arana@seattle.gov. Applicants should either reside or work in Seattle. Applicants should clearly specify which board or commission interests them.

Claudia Arana
Boards & Commissions Administrator
Mayor Nickels' Office
Ph: 615-0958
Fax: 684-5360
Email: Claudia.Arana@Seattle.gov

For a complete list of boards and commissions, please visit the following website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/boards.htm>



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